

Household Pulse Survey User Notes

Phase 3.3

Date: February 16, 2022

[Release Note on Using the Household Pulse Survey to Estimate Transgender Respondents](#)

The Household Pulse Survey's (HPS) data tables currently use a combination of two survey questions to identify transgender respondents.

D6 What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate?

☐ Male

☐ Female

D7 Do you currently describe yourself as male, female or transgender?

☐ Male

☐ Female

☐ Transgender

☐ None of these

Although missing data in the HPS is typically not imputed, some variables require editing to create the survey sampling weights for population estimation. As part of this weighting design, a male/female sex value is necessary for all respondents.¹

When the survey began in April 2020, the HPS used a dichotomous male/female sex variable for this weighting procedure.² In July 2021, after the Census Bureau added questions about sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI), the weighting procedure shifted from using the original sex variable to the new sex at birth variable (D6).³ Therefore, in instances where respondents do not provide an answer to D6, an edited value is created using a standard hot deck imputation method.

¹ The weighting procedure uses population controls for age, race, Hispanic origin, sex at birth, education, and total number of adults in households. All these items must be completed by the respondent or imputed to create appropriate survey weights. More information about sampling and weighting procedures can be found via the Household Pulse Survey Source and Accuracy Statements available on the [HPS Technical Documentation webpage](#).

² The wording of the original sex question was "Are you...Select only one answer." Response options included "Male" or "Female."

³ The SOGI items were first collected during Phase 3.2 of the HPS, which ran from July 21 – October 11, 2021.

Currently, HPS data tables categorize respondents as transgender in one of two ways:

1. Respondents who specifically select "Transgender" on D7.
2. Respondents whose reporting of sex at birth (D6) and current gender identity (D7) do not align, meaning respondents report male/female or female/male for the two questions.

Respondents who meet the second criteria receive an automated "confirmation check" question (D8) to verify the reported answers are correct.

D8 Just to confirm, you were assigned "\${D6/ChoiceGroup/SelectedChoices}" at birth and now you describe yourself as "\${D7/ChoiceGroup/SelectedChoices}". Is that correct?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If the respondent selects "No," indicating their responses are not correct, they are asked both the sex at birth and current gender identity questions again. However, this automated check is not triggered if the respondent does not respond to one or both relevant questions.

Although both sex at birth (D6) and current gender identity (D7) may not be reported by a respondent, only the missing information for sex at birth is imputed during the post data collection process as required for the creation of the survey weights.

This imputation creates scenarios where certain respondents are categorized as transgender from reported male/female values on current gender identity (D7) and imputed male/female values on sex at birth (D6). As a result of the imputation and discordant values, some respondents may be inaccurately categorized as transgender as currently shown in the final data.

The Census Bureau is evaluating potential improvements in the way the HPS edits sex at birth and reports transgender respondents on the HPS. Data users who are concerned about situations where an imputed sex at birth and a different reported value on current gender identity may create a transgender respondent in error should consider constraining their analysis to only respondents with reported values for the sex at birth question (D6). This can be accomplished using the [HPS public use data files](#), all of which include a sex at birth allocation flag variable called AGENID_BIRTH.

AGENID_BIRTH	Description	Gender at birth allocation flag
	Values	1) Imputed 2) Not imputed
	Universe	All persons
	Internal Notes	Hot deck imputation prior to top/bottom coding.

By sub-setting analysis to include only cases where sex at birth is not imputed (AGENID_BIRTH=2), the transgender estimates resulting from the imputation of sex at birth will be removed from the analysis. This exclusion would remove between 1-2% of the final sample and weighted totals and would differ from the population totals and published data tables.

Any potential changes to the editing or reporting of transgender respondents to the HPS will be communicated in advance of implementation. In the meantime, please direct any questions to Thom File (thomas.a.file@census.gov) and Jason Fields (jason.m.fields@census.gov) on the Household Pulse Survey Team.

Date: February 02, 2022

[Release Note on Updated Phase 3.3 Public Use File \(PUF\) Data Dictionaries](#)

The following updates were made to the Phase 3.3 Data Dictionaries (in both SAS and CSV formats).

The KIDGETVAC label for value 6 was changed from “6) I do not know the plans for vaccination of the children aged **12-17** in my household” to “6) I do not know the plans for vaccination of the children aged **5-17** in my household.”

Data users can find the most updated Data Dictionary in the Week 41 PUF release on the [Household Pulse Survey PUF](#) webpage.

Date: January 19, 2022

[Release Note on Updated Phase 3.3 Table Specifications](#)

The following updates were made to the Phase 3.3 Table Specifications that were released December 22, 2021.

[All Tables](#)

Respondents to the Household Pulse Survey must be 18, therefore, beginning with Week 41, **TBIRTH_YEAR** values in the sourcing specification were adjusted by one year to accommodate the calendar year change from 2021 to 2022.

[Spending Table 2](#)

The name of the variables sourcing the **Activities outside the home in the last 7 days (SPN5)** columns were corrected from **SPN5_1 – SPN5_6** to **ACTIVITY1 – ACTIVITY6**.

Data users can find the most updated table specifications on the main [Technical Documentation](#) webpage.

Date: December 22, 2021

[Release Note on Phase 3.3 Collection of the Household Pulse Survey](#)

Following a nearly two-month break in data collection, the Household Pulse Survey (HPS) has now entered Phase 3.3. Beginning with the Week 40 release (collection period December 1 – December 13, 2021), there have been multiple changes to the questionnaire, including the addition of new questions, the adjustment of existing questions, and the removal of some questions for which utility has declined over time (see Release Note on New Content and Updated Questionnaire below).

Phase 3.3 is currently scheduled to collect data into February 2022. Although previous phases of the survey collected and disseminated data every two weeks, Phase 3.3 has shifted to a two-weeks on, two-weeks off collection and dissemination approach, with the following anticipated collection periods and data releases.

Week 40 - December 1 - December 13, 2021 (data released on December 22, 2021)

Week 41 - December 29, 2021 - January 10, 2022 (data released January 19, 2022)

Week 42 - January 26 - February 7, 2022 (data released February 16, 2022)

Users can access the Phase 3.3 questionnaire on the [Measuring Household Experiences during the Coronavirus \(COVID-10\) Pandemic](#) website, and all previous questionnaires from the survey are available on the [Technical Documentation](#) webpage.

Release Note on New Content and Updated Questionnaire

New Questions for Phase 3.3

Beginning with Week 40 (collection period December 1, 2021 – December 13, 2021), the Household Pulse Survey questionnaire changed to include the following items:

- Two questions focused on transportation have been returned to the questionnaire from previous phases: one asking about behavior before the COVID-19 pandemic began (PRVRIDESH) and another focused on the previous 7 days (FEWRTRANS).
- A new question asks about the specific brand of COVID-19 vaccine received (BRAND).
- A series of questions about unemployment insurance have been returned to the survey from previous phases (UI_APPLYRV, UI_RECVRV, UI_RECVNOW).

Updated Questions for Phase 3.3

Additionally, adjusted questionnaire items include:

- The previously asked question about plans for receiving all required COVID-19 vaccinations has been replaced with an item asking about the specific number of vaccinations received (NUMDOSES).
- The previously asked question about vaccine hesitancy for households with children ages 12-17 has been expanded to also include households with children ages 5-11 (KIDDOSES).

Removed Questions for Phase 3.3

During this same collection period, the following questions were removed from the survey due to a decline in their utility:

- The series of questions asking about summer educational activities have been removed from the survey instrument (SUMMER_ED1-SUMMER_ED4).

Release Note on Updated Phase 3.3 Table Specifications

Data users can find the most updated table specifications on the main [Technical Documentation](#) webpage.

Education Table 1

This table was formerly titled Education Table 2a and has been updated due to changes in the questionnaire.

Education Tables 1a, 1b, and 1c

Based on changes to the questionnaire, these tables have all been discontinued for Phase 3.3.

Education Table 2

New table showing childcare arrangements in the last 4 weeks for children ages 5-11.

Employment Tables 5 and 6

Based on the return of unemployment insurance items to the questionnaire, these two tables have been returned to the HPS table package.

Food Tables 3 and 4

These tables now include the following footnote about defining food insufficiency.

Although definitions of food insufficiency may vary, based on the way food security questions are asked in the Household Pulse Survey, this table includes breakdowns of households with “Enough food, but not always the kinds wanted.” Data users are encouraged to pay careful attention to table labels and column definitions.

Health Tables 5a and 6a

For Phase 3.3 response option “Experience side effects from first dose” was replaced with response option “Believe one dose is enough protection” and the stubs for both these tables now reflect that change.

Health Table 5a

Labels and specification for columns E-H have been updated to reflect change in survey content. This table formerly sourced a question about plans for receiving all required COVID-19 vaccinations but now relies on a question about the specific number of vaccine doses received.

Health Table 6a

The universe for this table has been updated to no longer include the constraint about not planning to receive all required doses since that question is no longer asked on the questionnaire.

Health Tables 5b and 6b

Based on changes to the questionnaire, these tables have an updated universe to reflect households with children ages 5-11, whereas previously these tables only had data for households with children ages 12-17. The stub for Health Table 5b has also been updated to reflect changes to the question about vaccine hesitancy.

Housing Tables 1a and 2a

Former column D (labeled “Owned free and clear”) has been moved to the next to last column of both these tables.

Housing Tables 1b and 2b

Former column D (labeled “Occupied without rent”) has been moved to the next to last column of both these tables. Also, the question about rental assistance has been added to the stubs.

Transportation Table 1

Based on the return of transportation items to the questionnaire, this table has been returned to the HPS table package.

[Release Note on COVID-19 Vaccination Tracker](#)

The [COVID-19 Vaccination Tracker](#), which focused on the number of Americans receiving at least one-dose of a COVID-vaccine and attitudes towards the vaccines, has been discontinued following Phase 3.2 of the survey. The tracker was published from April 14 to October 20, 2021, and data users can continue to access an archived version of the visualization on the [HPS Research and Presentations](#) webpage or via the [Census Bureau's interactive data visualization gallery](#).